



## CITY OF TUCSON

KARIN UHLICH  
COUNCIL MEMBER

April 30, 2010

Dear City Retiree:

I would like to first thank you for your years of dedication and service to the City of Tucson and its residents.

As you are aware, the City and just about every jurisdiction in the country is suffering through the worst economic times since the Great Depression. This year the City is faced again with a budget shortfall in its general fund between \$30 and \$50 M – the uncertainty in those numbers comes in a large part from not knowing what actions the State of Arizona may take.

My staff and I have been following the dialogue regarding the retiree benefits issues – blending and unblending of benefits, vision care, life insurance, etc. We have been and will continue to be in contact with Jean Wilkins and others from the City of Tucson Retirees Association (CTRA), and we want to encourage you to stay in close touch as well.

Recently we received the following information from Cindy Bezaury, COT Human Resources Director:

- For the plan year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, medical rates will remain blended.
- The question of whether or not the benefits will remain blended and the vision care item included, have been referred to the Benefits Committee for recommendation to the City Manager by September.
- The direction from Mr. Letcher to the Benefits Committee is to address the vision care item first, blending second, and self-insurance (the potential for the City to self-insure) third.

I have recently talked to Mr. Letcher about this issue and I am anxious to receive word on specific recommendations from the Benefits Committee. Let me assure you that I will not support any changes that I believe treat our retirees unfairly or that subject our retirees to undue costs or burdens. We are all facing this economic downturn together, and can only succeed if we share sacrifices in a just and equitable manner.

In addition, on April 21, Council Member Romero asked for the retirees insurance issues to be placed on the Mayor and Council Study Session Agenda for discussion purposes on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,

Karin Uhlich  
Council Member, Ward 3